GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:37
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
SETTING UP OF FOREIGN BUYOUT UNITS
Dhanaraju Dr. K.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up foreign buyout units to cut import of high grade and low ash content coal into the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the names of the countries where these units are likely to be set up for importing coal ;

(d) whether the high grade and low ash content coal is not available in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the percentage of ash content of Indian Coal ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) is contemplating to exploit reserves of good quality coking coal and low ash non-coking coal in foreign countries, through its proposed subsidiary `COAL VIDESH`. CIL envisages to invest in prospective coal business opportunities abroad pertaining to good quality coking and low ash thermal coal reserves, which are either domestically scarce or, if available, are not viable to be techno-commercially exploited. CIL proposes to import its produce from foreign operations and becomes the dominant player in the imported coal market with a view to enhance the energy security of the nation.

(c): CIL is contemplating to set up its operations in Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

(d) The reserves of coking coal and low ash non-coking coal are limited in the country. Moreover, a part of the available reserves do not have the techno- cotnmercial viability for exploitation.

(e): The ash content of indigenous coking coal excavated from coal mines of CIL normally varies from 15% to 35%. The ash content of indigenous non-coking coal other than Assam Coal normally ranges between 14.5% to 50% and that from NEC

(Assam)- Tertiary Coal ranges between 10% to 17%.